

[Dated November 4, 1998]

CERTIFIED MAIL P 324 923 058

Mr. Joseph Powell
Valent U.S.A. Corporation
Registration and Regulatory Affairs
1333 N. California Blvd., Suite 600
P.O. Box 8025
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8025

Dear Mr. Powell:

This letter is to transmit Office of Pesticide Programs' (OPP) preliminary human health and ecological risk assessments for the organophosphate (OP) acephate, for which you hold a registration for technical material. We are providing you with a 30-day period to identify and comment on errors only. Your comments must be received within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The Agency will review and evaluate your comments on errors upon receipt. On or about January 4, 1999, the preliminary risk assessments, your comments, and the Agency's review and discussion of your comments will be placed into OPP's Public Docket. The docket will be opened for public comment for 60 days from the date of publication of a Notice of Data Availability in the Federal Register. Additionally, the preliminary risk assessments will be placed on the internet at the same time. This process is part of the Agency's efforts to involve the public in the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 and serves as an interim measure to improve the transparency of the reregistration and tolerance reassessment processes.

During this 30-day comment period, the Agency asks for comments on errors, confidential business information (CBI), and planned data. The Agency will respond only to errors which do not pertain to matters of policy, interpretation, or applicability of data. Errors include, but are not limited to, mathematical, computational, typographic, or other similar errors. In the process of reviewing the Agency's preliminary risk assessments, we ask that you inform us in writing of any claims of CBI contained in these assessments. If we do not receive notification in writing of any such claims within 30 days, the Agency will assume that the documents are free of CBI. Also, we request that you inform the Agency of any pertinent, on-going or planned

studies, or other sources of information on acephate, and your timetable for completing and

submitting such data and information to the Agency. This will enable the Agency to plan better for refining its risk assessments and completing the reregistration and tolerance reassessment.

If during this thirty day period, you submit comments other than on errors, you should clearly indicate that these are submitted in advance for the 60-day public comment period. You should provide a brief summary of the comments and refer to an attachment which provides a more in-depth discussion.

Please mail your response, any claims of CBI and other information about acephate to Chemical Review Manager Angel Chiri. In addition, provide the CRM your response and any supporting material in both hard copy and electronic form. If you have any questions, please contact him at (703) 308-8320.

Sincerely,

Robert McNally, Chief
Special Review Branch
Special Review and
Reregistration Division